



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/808,657	03/15/2001	Keith E. Finger	RD0530-ASGCO	4923

110 7590 12/03/2002

DANN DORFMAN HERRELL & SKILLMAN
SUITE 720
1601 MARKET STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-2307

EXAMINER

SHARMA, RASHMI K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3651

DATE MAILED: 12/03/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/808,657

Applicant(s)
Finger et al.

Examiner
Rashmi Sharma

Art Unit
3651



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Aug 19, 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-89 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) 4, 5, 15, 16, 24, 25, 31, and 39-89 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 6-8, 10, 19-23, 26-28, and 35-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9, 11-14, 17, 18, 29, 30, and 32-34 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 2 6) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 3651

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 4, 5, 15, 24, 25, 31 and 39-89 have been withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected group, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in Paper No. 5.

It should be noted that newly added claims 71-89 do not belong to the elected Group I.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-3, 6-8, 10, 19-23, 26-28 and 35-38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mott (U.S. patent number 5,992,614).

Mott discloses a belt scraper comprising a blade holder (18), a blade mounted on the blade holder (18), a tensioner (20) including an outer collar fixed to the mount and an inner collar fixed to the blade holder (see figure 3), a spring (26) coupled between the inner and outer collars for urging the blade towards the belt. The blade body (16) comprising a pair of parallel skirts

Art Unit: 3651

extending therefrom defining a blade cavity where the blade is mounted on the blade holder (18) with the holder disposed within the blade cavity (see figure 1) and the skirts are releasably engaging the blade holder (18), the blade holder (18) having a rod and a longitudinal key-bar extending radially therefrom while the blade body (16) has a key-bar slot in the blade cavity for receiving the key-bar when the rod is disposed within the blade cavity (see figure 1). The blade (16) and the blade holder (18) have respective complementary engaging features that engage the blade (16) mounted to the blade holder (18) for limiting the longitudinal movement of the blade with respect to the blade holder (18), a mount having two spaced apart mounting plates (28, 22) each having a hole therein where the blade holder rod (18) is disposed within the holes between the mounting plates, a bushing (24), the belt scraper having a primary, secondary and a diverting position with respect to the belt and wherein the blade, blade holder or the tensioner is of material compatible with the sanitary processing of food and food products.

Allowable Subject Matter

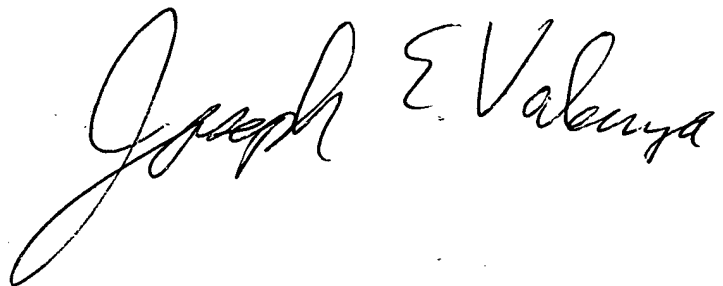
4. Claims 9, 11-14, 17, 18, 29, 30 and 32-34 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Art Unit: 3651

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Rashmi Sharma who can be reached at 703-306-5952 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Any general inquiry concerning the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist who can be reached at 703-308-1113.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph E. Valenza". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

JOSEPH E. VALENZA
PRIMARY EXAMINER